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In re Patent Application of

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METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRETREATING

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February 20, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

As suggested by 37 C.F.R. 1.97, the undersigned attorney brings to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449, a copy of each of which together with a copy of the International Search Report are enclosed. This is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no better prior art exists, or that a reference is relevant merely because - cited.

The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO-1449 and to return a copy of the initialed document to the undersigned as an indication that the attached references have been considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

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